

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Keith L. Black and Nagendra S. Ningaraj  
Appln. No. : Continuation of 09/491,500  
Filed : October 29, 2003

Examiner : Unassigned  
Customer No. : 20786

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Patent Application  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 29, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as shown below and consider the appended remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.